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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/052,505	02/01/2002	Sudhendu Rai	D/A1472 (1508/3540)	8789

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EXAMINER

RUDOLPH, VINCENT M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/22/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/052,505	Applicant(s) RAI ET AL.	
	Examiner Vincent Rudolph	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,7,9,11-17,19,21-27 and 31-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-6 and 28-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,7,9,11-17,19,21-27 and 31-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A petition filed under 37 CFR 1.137(b) filed May 15, 2008 to revive the application was granted. In addition to the filed petition, a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was also filed in the petition. Applicant's submission filed on 5/15/2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11-17, 19, 21-27 and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hill (Pub. # 20030041765).

Regarding claim 17, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses a system (**See Figure 1**) that includes a server (computer, **See Figure 1, Element 12; Page 1, Paragraph 0009**), which has a modeling module (included within the print agent, **See Figure 2, Element 28**) for receiving modeling parameters from a plurality of remotely located print shops (receives bids from print shops, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0019**, such that the bids include the time period to complete the job, cost, etc., **See Page 2, Paragraph 0018**) and generates model output data (selects the successful bid based on the criteria

received, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0020**), such that the modeling module is configured to perform model hypothetical studies based on the modeling parameters (prior to selecting the optimal bid, the print agent uses cost, time to complete the print job, proximity, etc. as a factor in the final selection, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0021**), such that the modeling parameters include print shop organization information (parameters from the user-selected attributes such as the time to complete the print job, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0019**) and the print shop organization information includes equipment resources available at each print shop (whether the print shop is able to complete the job as requested, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0018**, based on the attributes of the print job submitted by the print agent, **See Page 1, Paragraph 0013**).

Regarding claim 19, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses that the print shop organization information includes information regarding at least one cell composition (a print shop and its proximity, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0020**) and the equipment available in each cell (layout and format features that the user instructed, **See Page 1-2, Paragraph 0014**, that are used within the printing services of the print shop, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0017**, and sent to the print agent, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0019**).

Regarding claim 21, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses that the modeling parameters include print job requirements (requirements used to bid and output the print job, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0018**).

Regarding claim 22, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses that the print job requirements include information regarding the number of pages in each item (**number of copies for the print job, See Page 1-2, Paragraph 0014**).

Regarding claim 23, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses that the model output data includes cost of the print job (**See Page 2, Paragraph 0020**).

Regarding claim 24, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses that the server includes a design module (included within the print agent) adapted to receive print shop organization information (the performance information for each print shop, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0018**) and to generate suggested print shop organization revisions from each print shop (generate suggestions, or criteria, in order to determine which print shop should output the print data, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0019-0020**).

Regarding claim 25, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses that the server further includes a reorganization module (included within the print agent) adapted to receive parameters regarding a change in the print job mix at each print shop (whether the print shop is able to complete the print job set by the user, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0019**) and to generate suggestions for reorganizing each print shop (if more than one print shop is able to complete the print job, the user is able to suggest the organization for outputting the print job at the print shop, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0022**).

Regarding claim 26, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses that the system is adapted to receive the modeling parameters via the Internet (**See Figure 1; Page 2, Paragraph 0017**).

Regarding claim 27, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses that the system is adapted to receive the modeling parameters via a web based connection (a network connection, **See Figure 1; Page 2, Paragraph 0017**).

Regarding claim 31, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses a design module (included within the print agent) adapted to receive performance data for equipment and operators in each print shop (the performance information for each print shop, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0018**), and a database (memory) for saving the performance data, so that the design module is adapted to retrieve the it from the database and analyze the performance data to determine suggested print shop changes (temporarily stores the information if the print shop performance data falls within the user set attributes, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0019**, so that it is able to be analyzed later in order to determine which print shop should output the print data, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0020-0021**).

Regarding claim 32, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses that the design module is adapted to forward the suggested print changes to each print shop (once the successful bid from a print shop is selected, the chosen print shop is forwarded the print job to output it according to the user-selected attributes, **See Page 3, Paragraph 0024**).

Regarding claim 33, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses a reorganization module (included within the print agent) adapted to determine suggested print shop organization revisions based on parameters for a mix of print jobs and upon each current print shop organization (if more than one print shop is able to complete the print job, the user is able to suggest the organization for outputting the print job at the print shop, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0022**).

Regarding claim 1, the rationale provided in the rejection of claim 17 is incorporated herein. In addition, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses that the print shop organization information includes equipment and labor resources available at each of

the print shops (whether the print shop is able to complete the job as requested, **See Page 2, Paragraph 0018**, based on the attributes of the print job submitted by the print agent, **See Page 1, Paragraph 0013**).

Regarding claims 2-3, 9 and 11-16, the rationale provided in the rejection of claims 17, 19, 21-23, 26-27 and 31-33 is incorporated herein. In addition, the system of claims 17, 19, 21-23, 26-27 and 31-33 corresponds to the method of claims 2-3, 9 and 11-16 and performs the steps disclosed herein.

Regarding claim 7, Hill (Pub. # 20030041765) discloses forwarding the model output data to each respective remote print shop (a bid request is sent to each print shop, **See Page 2, paragraph 0016**, that includes pre-defined criteria such as the cost and time to complete the print job, **See Figure 3; Page 2, Paragraph 0015**).

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues the prior art does not disclose the production costs per unit time used for each resource including equipment and labor and material parameters. Upon further review, Hill discloses that the print shop organization information includes equipment and labor resources available at each of the print ships (equipment resources available at each print shop according to claim 17), such that the print shop states whether it is able to complete the print job as requested (**See Page 2, Paragraph 0018**) based on the attributes of the print job submitted by print agent (**See Page 1, Paragraph 0013**). Thus, the information discloses whether each print shop is capable of fulfilling the selected attributes of the print job based on the available equipment and

labor resources. As a result, the prior art of Hill does meet the limitations of the amended claims as disclosed within the rejection above.

Based on these facts, **THIS ACTION IS MADE NON-FINAL.**

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vincent Rudolph whose telephone number is (571) 272-8243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Vincent Rudolph
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

/Vincent Rudolph/
Acting Examiner of Art Unit 2625

/David K Moore/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625